IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (currently amended) A method for controlling a start-up operation of a unit having at least a circuit portion and being connectable to an outside device said method comprising:

executing a first self-checking test when a connection between the outside device and the circuit portion is not recognized;

executing a second self-checking test including at least a part of said first self-checking test, when said connection between the outside device and the circuit portion is recognized; and

~~The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~ recognizing said connection with said other device in response to receipt of a reply by said outside device to a predetermined command by said circuit portion. ~~a predetermined command is transmitted from said unit to recognize said connection, and whether there is receipt of a control command output from said outside device in response to said predetermined command is detected.~~

3. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 2, wherein said recognizing step ~~predetermined command~~ further comprises communicating said predetermined command and said reply ~~control command are communicated~~ between said outside device and said circuit portion through an interface.

4. (currently amended) A method for controlling a start-up operation of a unit having at least a circuit portion and being connectable to an outside device, comprising the steps of:

executing a first self-checking test when a connection between the outside device, and the circuit portion is not recognized ~~The method according to Claim 1~~, wherein said outside device is used for making a test or adjustment in a process of fabricating said unit;

transmitting a predetermined command from said unit to recognize said connection, and ascertaining whether receipt of a control command output from said outside device in response to said predetermined command is detected, wherein said step of transmitting a predetermined

command further comprises communicating said predetermined command and said control command between said outside device and said circuit portion through an interface; and

executing a second self-checking test including at least a part of said first self-checking test, when said connection between the outside device and the circuit portion is recognized.

5. (currently amended) The method according to Claim ~~1~~2, wherein said step of executing a second self-checking test further comprises executing a second self-checking test including at least a part of said first self-checking test, wherein said outside device is used for making a test or adjustment in a process of analyzing a failure of said unit.

6. (original) A method for executing a self-checking test of a unit equipped with a mechanical part for performing a predetermined operation and a control board for controlling said mechanical part, comprising:

a first step of executing a test common to a first self-checking test, which is executed when said unit is in a finished-product state, and a second self-checking test, which is executed when said unit is in an unfinished-product state prior to initial deployment and use;

a second step of judging whether said unit is in said finished-product state; and

a third step of continuing one of the set of said first self-checking test, or said second self-checking test, based on said judgment in said second step.

7. (currently amended) A method for executing a self-checking test of a unit equipped with a mechanical part for performing a predetermined operation and a control board for controlling said mechanical part, comprising:

a first step of executing a test common to a first self-checking test, which is executed when said unit is in a finished-product state, and a second self-checking test, which is executed when said unit is in an unfinished-product state ~~The method according to Claim 6~~, wherein said second self-checking test further comprises ~~a fourth step of~~ overwriting one or more flag-settings of a program in accordance with a next self-checking test[[.]];

a second step of judging whether said unit is in said finished-product state; and

a third step of continuing one of the set of said first self-checking test, or said second self-checking test, based on said judgment in said second step.

8. (original) A control board, which is combined with a mechanical part for performing a predetermined operation and stores a program for controlling said mechanical part, comprising:

an interface for communicating data between said control board and an outside device,

wherein said program includes one or more types of self-checking test programs, and also includes a process of outputting a predetermined command to said outside device through said interface and a process of selecting and executing a specific self-checking test program from said one or more types of self-checking test programs in accordance with a control command input from said outside device through said interface in response to said predetermined command.

9. (currently amended) A control board, which is combined with a mechanical part for performing a predetermined operation and stores a program for controlling said mechanical part, said control board comprising:

an interface for communicating data between said control board and an outside device,

wherein said program includes one or more types of self-checking test programs, and also includes a process of outputting a predetermined command to said outside device through said interface and a process of selecting and executing a specific self-checking test program from said one or more types of self-checking test programs in accordance with a control command input from said outside device through said interface in response to said predetermined command,

~~The control board according to Claim 8,~~ wherein, at the time of selecting said specific self-checking test program from said one or more types of self-checking test programs, said specific self-checking test program is selected on the basis of whether a predetermined flag has been set by a control command output from said outside device.

10. (original) The control board according to Claim 9, wherein, when said flag has been set, said specific self-checking test program is selected on the basis of a type of flag.

11. (original) The control board according to Claim 8, further comprising an input-output port, which is employed at a time of debugging a program, as said interface.

12. (currently amended) A device, comprising:

a mechanical part for performing a predetermined operation; and

a control section for controlling said mechanical part, wherein said control section includes means for transmitting a predetermined command from said unit to recognize said connection, and ascertaining receipt of a control command output from said outside device in response to whether said predetermined command is detected,

and wherein said control section comprises:

a storage unit for storing one or more types of self-checking test programs which are executed at a time of starting operation;

a notification unit for informing an outside device at a predetermined time that a command is acceptable;

selection means for selecting a self-checking test program which is executed, from among plural kinds of said self-checking test programs, based on whether or not there is a control command input from said outside device in response to the notification by said notification unit; and

an execution unit for executing said self-checking test programs selected by said selection unit.

13. (original) The device according to Claim 12, which is a tape drive unit for reading out or writing data from or to a tape which is a storage medium.

14. (original) A system for checking a product in a process of fabricating said product, the system being equipped with a moving part and a control section for controlling said moving part, wherein a command for shifting a checking process to a predetermined self-checking test is output from said checking system connected to said product fabricated to an extent having at least said control section, when said checking system is notified by said product that a command is acceptable.

15. (original) The checking system according to Claim 14, wherein the predetermined check is made for said product given a predetermined self-checking test in response to said command output from said checking system.